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22-year-old's mobile film chosen for Pangea Day

Anupam Chakravarty

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vadodara, May 10 Noor Mohammed Rathod, 22, from Halol is among the 24-odd filmmakers selected from over 100 countries for an international competition featuring films shots with mobile phones.

Noor's film, shot through a Nokia N 95 mobile phone, was chosen from over 2,500 films and telecast across the world on Saturday, as part of the Pangea Day film festival that connects amateur filmmakers and audiences across the globe.

But Noor is not new to the camera. He is a community video producer for an alternative video network run by the Ahmedabad-based NGO, Drishti Media Arts and Human Rights and Yuvashakti. Noor says that it was the 2002 riots and the media's role in portraying the riots that prompted him to start work on media. "When the 2002 riots happened, I was in the 10th standard. My family suffered a lot and I saw no point in studying further," said Noor.

He said the influence of media and riots during the post-2002 riots made him curious about how the press had trivialised rioting. "The news report in the local newspapers was biased. At some places in Halol, I saw people wielding cameras starting riots among communities, almost bending truth to its own purpose," Noor said. "But then I got in touch with some organisations, who educated me in the alternative forms of media, which is not time-bound," he added.

Noor's film, 'Fear,' is a testimony of the violent past, which he witnessed in 2002. Noor said he essentially captured people's reaction to objects of fear they encounter at public places. "I captured people's reaction to fire-crackers, insects and all kinds of things. But my idea was to explore the notion of fear among the people. If a harmless blast of a firecracker jolts a person, how is it that they can wield guns and swords and put them to good use?" he said.

Noor's film is among four other films from Gujarat sent for the Pangea Day. "We had sent 25 films from the Drishti and out of that four have been selected which were exclusively shot through Nokia N95," said Kanu Bharti from Drishti Media Arts and Human Rights. An American based in Ahmedabad Jessica Mayberry, a youth organisation from Bhavnagar, Hind Swaraj Mandal and Anmol Dharmadhikari, made the other three films from the state.

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by noor on 26 May 2008

Hi this is noor rathod from halol i m verrry thank full to vadodara indian express team

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